

Hilton Head Island

SOUTH CAROLINA • A PICTORIAL SOUVENIR BOOK



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About the Island

Lush and spectacular, Hilton Head Island attracts well over two million visitors each year. When they arrive, they find a place like no other. Nature sets the tone here, and the rich landscape provides a backdrop for fabulous diversions. The island offers the world's finest selection of top-flight golf and tennis, with shopping, dining and other amenities to match. Boaters and fishermen enjoy year-round sport, thanks to the island's mild climate and a location between the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean. Luxurious private homes and elegant resorts are set along miles of broad, heavily forested beaches. Strict controls on development protect a natural "look" that sets the standard for resort and residential communities around the world.

Hilton Head Island's natural wealth has attracted many visitors for thousands of years.

Indians lived here as early as 3,000 B.C. The Spanish and French arrived during the 1500s. In 1663 an English explorer, Captain William Hilton, wrote of a headland on the island's northern shore. Over the years, "Hilton's Head" developed into the island's modern name. During the plantation era, landowners amassed great fortunes by growing cotton, indigo and rice. Following the Civil War's largest naval battle in U.S. waters, the island became headquarters for the Union Army's Department of the South. A boom town grew up around the 30,000 troops billeted here. After the war the island turned to farming, timber production and hunting preserves for the wealthy. Resort and residential development began in the 1950s. The community continued to grow, and incorporated in 1983 as the Town of Hilton Head Island.

Accommodations

6,000 Condominium villas, 3,000 Hotel/motel rooms,
1,000 Timeshare units, 18 Properties accommodating
meetings and conventions, 2 RV resorts

Arts and Culture

Hilton Head Dance Theater, Hilton Head Island Playhouse
Hilton Head Orchestra, Self Family Arts Center

Boating and Fishing

9 Marinas, Species include bass, brim, grouper, pompano,
spots, whiting, croaker, catfish, sea trout, flounder, cobia,
drum, tarpon, bluefish, mackerel and marlin.

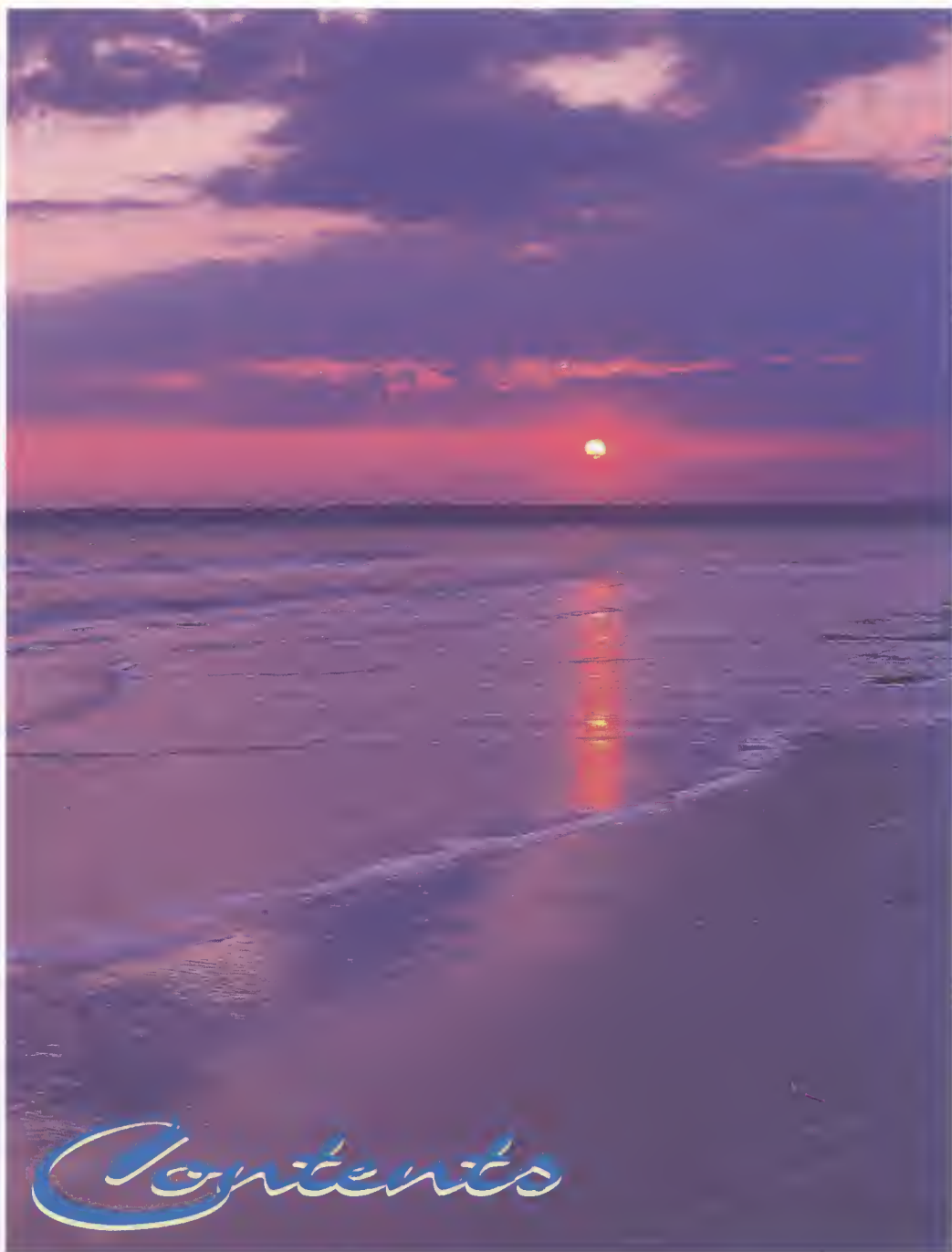
The Climate

Average annual daytime temperature 70 degrees F.
Spring & Fall: 70 to 80 degrees F.
Summer: 90 degrees F.
Winter: 50 to 60 degrees F.

Dining

More than 200 restaurants

Continued on inside back cover



Seasons	1
Nature	5
Superb Golf	9
Boating & Fishing	15
Outdoor Fun	19
Stay, Shop & Dine	25
Island Map	31

Photography

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The Season



*H*ilton Head's location, on the ocean near the Gulf Stream, helps create a mild climate with four distinct seasons. Conditions are nearly always right for golf, tennis and other warm-weather sports.





Spring sets the island ablaze with color. Beginning in March, beds of azaleas put forth hot pink, white, red and lavender blossoms. The carefully tended landscape continues to bloom through April and May, while wildflowers spring to life in the island's forest preserves.

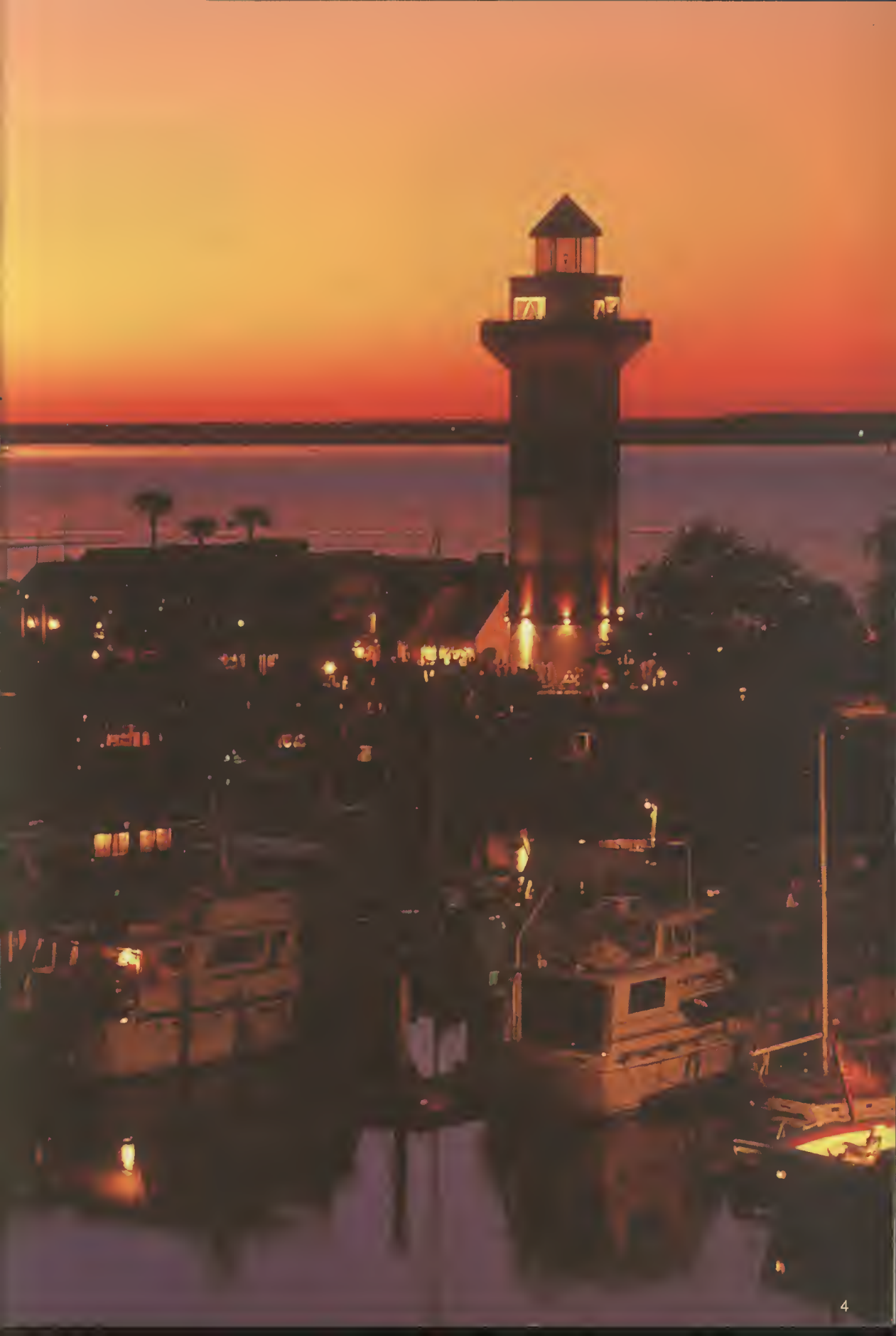
Summer brings "beach weather," and sea breezes ease the warmth of the strong southern sun.

During fall the marsh grasses and sea oats turn a warm golden color, as bright yellow and red leaves appear on the trees. The skies clear and their blue deepens to sapphire, as the air turns crisp and dry.

Winter turns the island's palette more toward deep greens and golden browns. With average daytime temperatures in the 50s and 60s, though, flowers bloom even during the winter months.









Nature



*H*ilton Head Island lies just off the coast of South Carolina, between the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean. A southerly location (just north of the Georgia border) and the nearby Gulf Stream help create mild, sunny weather all year.

Dense plant life includes live oaks draped with Spanish moss, magnolias, palmetto trees and wilflowers. On the beaches, golden rows of sea oats help prevent erosion. The island provides homes for a spectacular array of wildlife. Alligators cruise silently along lagoons, just a chip shot away from manicured fairways. Bottle-nose dolphins catch free rides by "surfing" on the bow waves of boats. Herds of deer graze in the island's forests and nature preserves. Bird watchers have spotted more than 350 species in the last decade.





Snowy egrets, blue herons and osprey — some with wing spans of several feet — soar along the shoreline of the island's marshy coves. Endangered loggerhead turtles make their nests on the wide, smooth beaches. Bobcat, minks, otter and even a few wild boar are native to the island. Tides flow through soft marsh grasses along much of the island's shoreline. Many forms of sea life depend on these tidal marshes. From oysters and crabs to mighty game fish like the tarpon, most of our favorite seafood begins life here.





Superb Golf



*H*ilton Head occupies a special place in the world of golf. The island's spectacular oceanfront scenery provides a flawless setting for the game. The weather allows year-round play. And the courses easily match the location.



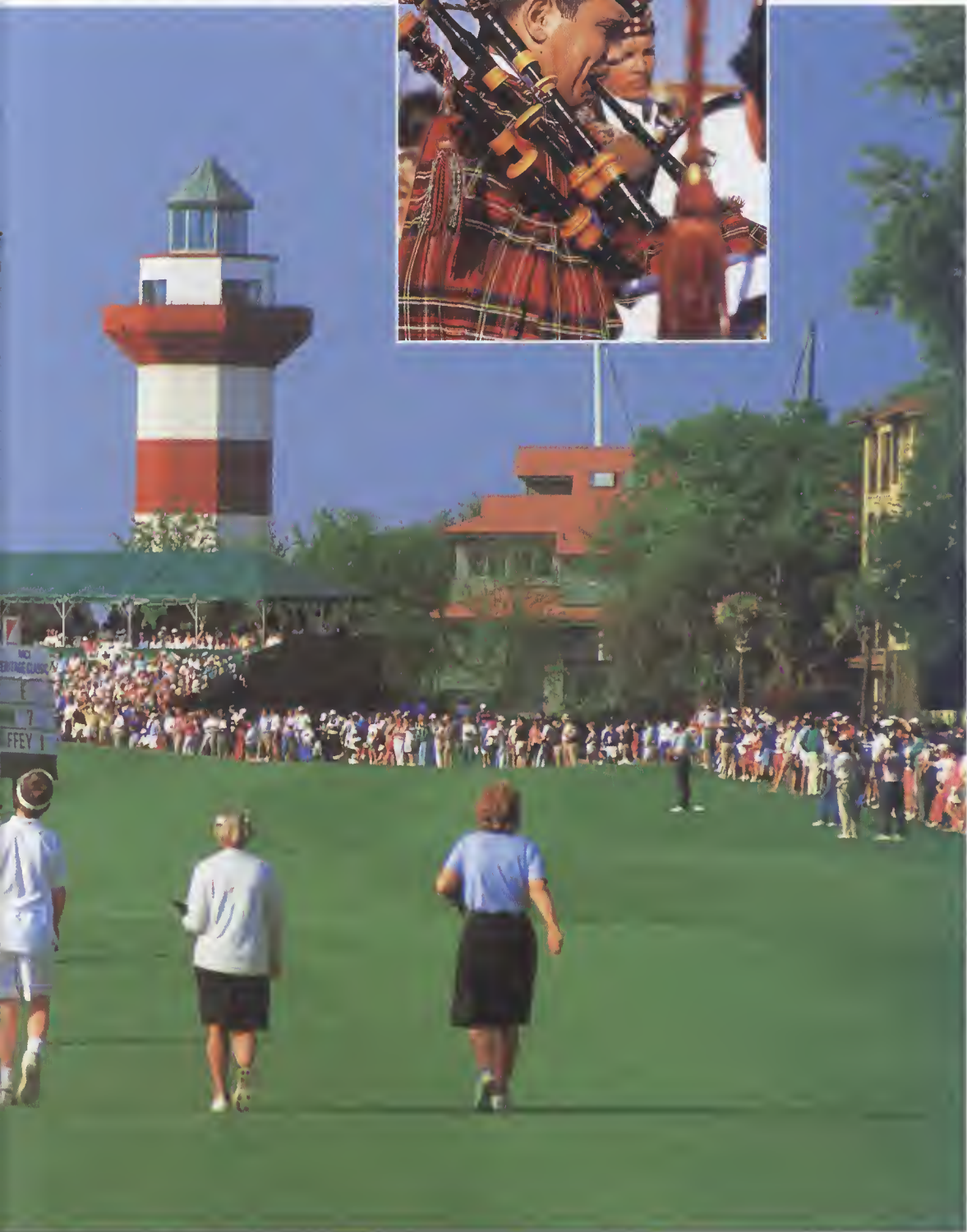
Most of the game's top architects have worked here. Willard Byrd, George Cobb, Pete Dye, George and Tom Fazio, Arthur Hills, Rees and Robert Trent Jones, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Fuzzy Zoeller have created championship courses on the island. Several of their designs consistently rank among the world's greatest courses. Layouts range from generously proportioned fairways and greens to long, undulating courses hemmed in with trees and peppered with water hazards. Striking features include avenues of ancient moss-draped oaks and breathtaking views of the ocean.



Each spring the world's top professional golfers gather for Hilton Head's premier event, the WORLD COM Classic — The Heritage of Golf. Television viewers around the world watch the pros compete on the Harbour Town Links. The tournament has helped establish the island as one of the game's most successful



resorts, with more than 800,000 rounds played annually on the twenty-two courses that are open to outside play.







Boating and Fishing



When seen from the water, Hilton Head Island reveals a new level of natural beauty. Luckily there are plenty of ways to get out on the waves. Nine marinas cater to boating enthusiasts with cruises and charters, boat rentals and convenient slips.





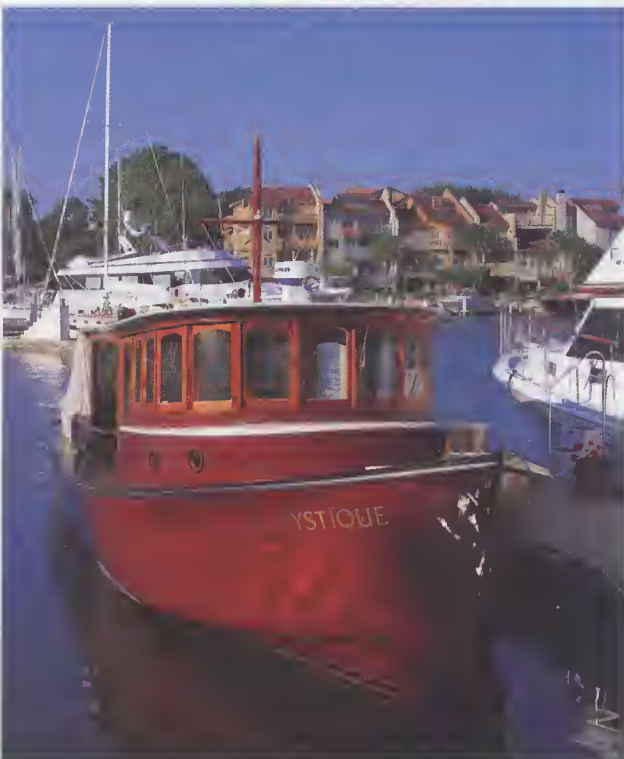
Fishermen land a host of freshwater and saltwater species, including bass, pompano, spots, whiting, bluefish, flounder, sea trout, cobia and tarpon. Families enjoy crabbing and casting shrimp nets.





Local shrimpers can be seen trawling close to shore during shrimp season. Fresh shrimp can be purchased at many locations on the island.







Outdoor Activities

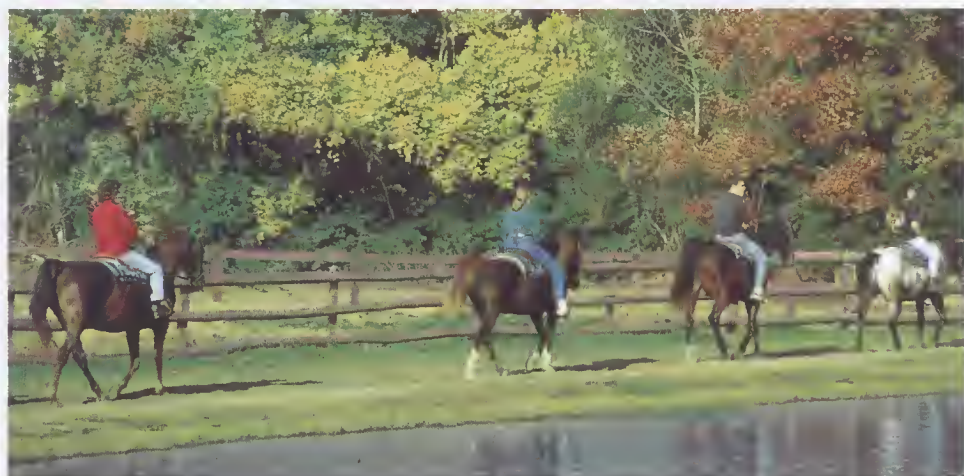


*F*un in the sun continues throughout the year on Hilton Head Island. Golf, tennis, swimming, sailing, fishing, horseback riding — the island's balmy climate and sea-freshened air are perfect enhancements to almost any form of warm-weather recreation.

r Favorite ways to see the island include parasailing over the waters of Calibogue Sound, canoeing on ten miles of interconnected lagoons, kayaking along the creeks and tidal marshes, and horseback riding through nature preserves.

ivities









Locals and visitors alike enjoy exploring the island's twelve miles of Atlantic beach. The firm sand, up to 600 feet wide at low tide, provides an excellent surface for walking and bicycling. An extensive network of paved trails connects the interior of the island and attracts pedestrians, bicyclists, rollerblade enthusiasts and joggers. For a real workout, there are hundreds of tennis courts, or informal volleyball matches on the beach. More relaxed pastimes include oceanfront oyster roasts, or simply enjoying the view from a beach chair.



Stay, S and

Hilton Head's fame as a resort owes much to the quality of its accommodations, which include luxurious oceanfront hotels, rental villas and private homes.



Shop Dine

More than two hundred restaurants offer almost every kind of fare, from refined continental cuisine to informal oceanfront cookouts. Authentic local recipes enhance the preparation of fresh, plentiful seafood.

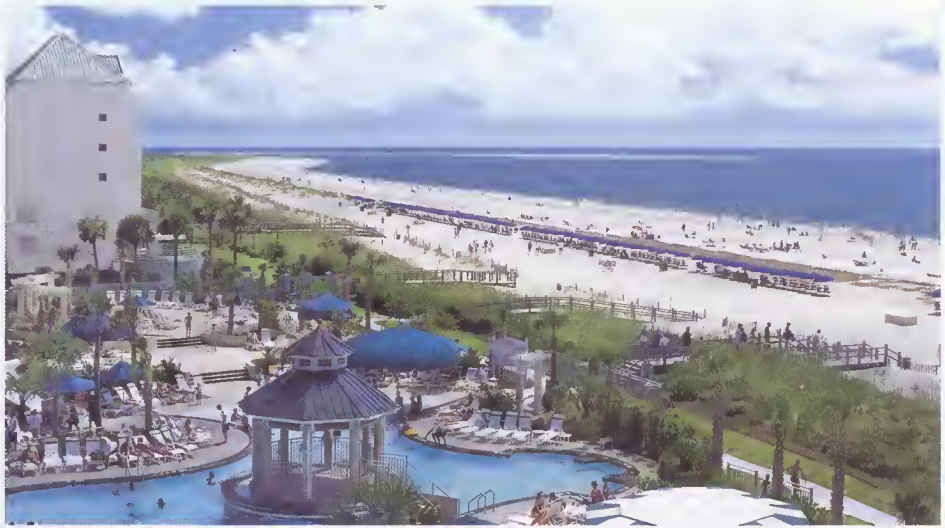


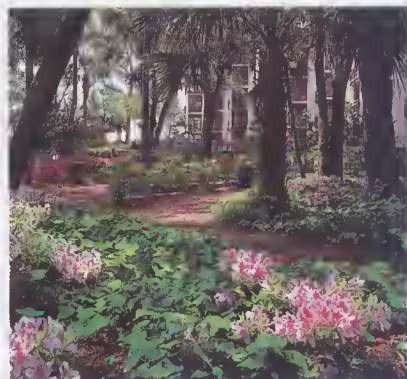


Choices for shoppers range from intriguing boutiques to major department stores and outlet malls. Charming waterfront shops, restaurants and villas surround several of the island's harbors. The opportunities for browsing — and bargains — are enough to fill an entire vacation.



Night clubs, theaters and lounges provide varied choices for entertainment. The Hilton Head Orchestra, visiting musicians and professional theater ensembles perform at the Self Family Arts Center in Shelter Cove.







More About the



General Recreation

Biking, crabbing, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, kayaking, windsurfing, water skiing, nature preserves, playgrounds, shopping, miles of bicycle paths and nature trails.

Golf Courses

22 courses (10 private), including several rated among the top 100 in the United States and the world.

Historical Attractions

Baynard Plantation Ruins Civil War fortifications (Fort Howell and Fort Mitchell) Gullah (African-American) culture Indian archeological excavations Revolutionary War cemetery. The Coastal Discovery Museum for Island history and ecology exhibits.

Location and Terrain

Located on South Carolina's coast about thirty miles north of Savannah, Georgia, Hilton Head Island is twelve miles long and five miles wide. Sandy, hard-packed beaches form the eastern shore. Two tidal rivers (one the Intracoastal Waterway) to the north separate the island from the mainland. Another tidal river, Broad Creek, nearly divides the island in half. Along the interior, a network of lagoons and creeks traverses vast saltwater marshes and forests of oak, pine, magnolia, palmetto, sweet gum and black locust.

Population

In 2002, the census recorded a permanent population of 35,000 and research studies revealed that 2 million people visit the island each year.

Shopping

36 shopping areas include an indoor mall, three outlet malls, boutiques, antique shops and art galleries.

Tennis Courts

300 courts (8 clubs offer resort play)

Wildlife

Includes more than 350 species of native birds, endangered loggerhead turtles, alligators, deer, bobcats and wild boar.

